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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(TEMPE, ARIZONA) An innovative textbook by educator Kay Edwards, ***Native American Music for Grades K-6: Connections for Cultural Awareness***, is now available from Canyon Records.

Designed for music specialists, classroom teachers, and other educators, this user-friendly collection provides 76 lesson plans (28 scripted + 48 supplemental) for including diverse Native American musics that address National Standards in both music and social studies in grades K-2 (Part A) or grades 3-6 (Part B).

Hands-on, developmentally appropriate, culturally responsible classroom experiences with 51 tracks of Native American social music provide students opportunities to develop and connect their musical and cultural understandings. The music includes pow-wow, round dance, rock, folk, country, Native American flute, *waila* ("chicken scratch"), rap, electronica, and more. A 24x20 color wall map and 2 CDs are included with the book, with a supporting website providing digital access to music, scores, photographs, charts, handouts, assessment forms, and video links. Reflective journaling, discussion questions, and extension activities are also included in the lessons.

Dr. Kay Edwards is Professor and Coordinator of Music Education Emerita at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in General Music from Arizona State University and Orff Level III certification, in addition to training in Kodály and Dalcroze.

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Dr. Edwards' passion to bring Native American music to the classroom began at Arizona State University during her master's degree when it was part of her coursework. She began attending powwows, visiting museums, and meeting Native musicians. As an elementary music teacher in Tempe, Arizona, she wanted to learn more about the adjacent Yaqui community of Guadalupe and their music. She began attending public events, made friends, and developed lesson plans on Yaqui music and culture in consultation with a musician and elder, so that her students could learn more about their nearby neighbors.

Dr. Edwards is an acknowledged leader in developing Native American music pedagogy who works with the guidance and input of Native American artists, educators, and culture keepers. This collaborative approach gives ***Native American Music for Grades K-6*** a broad view that illustrates cultural lifeways and values. Additionally, the *Essential Understandings About American Indians* from the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian are woven throughout the lessons. Half of the author's royalties benefit Native American organizations.

Native American Music for Grades K-6 is available through West Music (<https://www.westmusic.com/>) and Canyon Records (<https://canyonrecords.com/>) with distribution through Amazon later in 2024. Suggested retail price is \$149.95.